

2nd Grade - Lesson 4.1

Float and Sink

NGSS Alignment

Performance Expectations

2-PS1-1 Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter

- Matter can be described and classified by its observable properties. (2-PS1-1)

Students investigate and categorize eight different objects based on their characteristic property of whether they sink or float.

Science and Engineering Practices

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

- Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer a question. (2-PS1-1)

Students place eight different small objects in water to answer the question: Do certain materials tend to sink or float in water? Students see that objects made of wax or wood float and that objects made of rubber or metal sink.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Simple tests can be designed to gather evidence to support or refute student ideas about causes.

Students see an animation showing that whether an object sinks or floats depends on the material the object is made from. They see that wood floats and metal sinks even if the sample of wood is heavier than the metal. They also see that wax floats and rubber sinks even if the rubber is lighter than the wax.